

estimates that extending these benefits another year will create 300,000 much-needed jobs.

Now is not the time to cut unemployment; millions of Americans rely on unemployment assistance to survive. In my home state of Illinois during 2012, approximately 320,000 people relied on regular unemployment benefits and almost 140,000 additional Illinoisans depended on emergency unemployment. As Illinois and our nation continue to struggle out of this recession, failure to extend this critical lifeline will impose incredible hardship on approximately two million Americans. Failure to extend this critical lifeline means that—in addition to 90,000 Illinoisans who will abruptly lose benefits on December 29th—an additional 2,800 Illinoisans will lose benefits each week in 2013 if Republicans insist on slashing federal emergency assistance.

Our nation continues to experience historic levels of long-term unemployment. Most unemployed Americans no longer receive unemployment insurance benefits, reflecting the crisis that exists for the millions of Americans who have exhausted their benefits and still cannot find work. Indeed, over 40.8 percent of all unemployed workers, more than 5 million people, have been out of work for more than 6 months. These Americans lost their jobs through no fault of their own, they tirelessly try to find work when the jobs are few and far between, and they struggle to cover basic food, housing, and transportation costs for their families on an average of \$290 a week, a pittance which typically replaces only half of the average family's expenses.

Now is not the time to cut unemployment; our economy needs federal unemployment benefits to support its growth. In addition to cruelly stripping millions of Americans of vital assistance just days after Christmas, a Republican failure to continue unemployment benefits would devastate our fragile recovery. Moody's economist, Mark Zandi, estimates that slashing emergency benefits this year will reduce economic growth in 2013 by \$58 billion. Cutting unemployment benefits for two million people will take a tremendous toll on businesses as well as families. Even with the creation of millions of new private-sector jobs and improvements in the ratio of unemployed workers to job openings, jobs remain hard to get. There are 4 million fewer jobs in the economy now than at the beginning of the recession. Further, there are still 3.4 unemployed workers for each available job, worse than at any point during the 2001 recession and dramatically higher than the 1.8 people per job at the outset of the recession in December 2007.

Government leaders have a responsibility to protect Americans and our country, especially during times of national crisis. Failure to continue unemployment benefits will harm our economic recovery and disproportionately harm groups of Americans who already are hardest hit by the economic crisis—including older Americans, low-income Americans, Americans from racial and ethnic minority groups, and Americans without a high school diploma. Congress must quickly act to support our citizens and our economic recovery by continuing emergency unemployment benefits.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LOUIS LYNN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a South Carolina entrepreneur and leading landscape designer, Dr. Louis Lynn, a recent recipient of the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency's 2012 Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award. The Award recognizes exceptional leaders who have made great strides in creating diversity in the public or private sector. Dr. Lynn is a tremendous small business leader in South Carolina, and I am proud to call him a friend.

Dr. Lynn is a native of Lamar, South Carolina. His childhood in a rural area prompted his love of nature, and he spent his youth participating in the 4-H club and selling produce. He also came from a family of entrepreneurs—his grandfather was a shop owner and his father, Lawton, ran a butcher plant. His father was an influential figure in his life, who taught him to take a sense of pride in hard work, and the elder Lynn was even once named South Carolina Father of the Year.

In 1964, Louis Lynn entered the second freshman class to integrate Clemson University. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Horticulture from Clemson, and went on to earn a PhD in Horticulture from the University of Maryland. Early in his career, Dr. Lynn was a research scientist. His work at Monsanto led to the development of Roundup® herbicide. But he was called to more hands-on horticultural work.

In 1985, Dr. Lynn established ENVIRO Ag Science, Inc., which has become the largest African-American-owned landscape business in South Carolina. As the company has grown, it has added offices in Atlanta and Tucker, Georgia and now employs 85 full-time people. ENVIRO Ag Science, Inc. was recently named one of the 25 Fastest Growing Companies in South Carolina. His business began as a small residential landscaping business, but today is recognized for very high-profile projects including the landscaping of the Columbia Convention Center, the University of South Carolina Colonial Center, and BMW Manufacturing. Other clients include Ft. Jackson, Shaw Air Force Base, Fort Gordon and the Savannah River Nuclear site. As a SBA HUBZone Certified contractor, his firm is currently under contract with the Department of Defense for repair and renovation services on historic buildings at Fort Benning, Georgia and Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Dr. Lynn is a man of great faith. He feels called to give back to the community. In 1988, he was elected to the Clemson Board of Trustees, and is serving his seventh four-year term. He has also served on the boards of the BB&T Bank, South Carolina Workforce Investment, the State Chamber of Commerce, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the Palmetto Agribusiness Council, the Midlands Business Leadership Council, the State Museum Foundation, the South Carolina Horticulture Society and the South Carolina Commission of Higher Education.

Dr. Lynn and his wife, Audrey, are the parents of three adult children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Louis Lynn on receiving the prestigious Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award. He has made extraordinary contributions as an entrepreneur, a community leader, and a man of faith. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

HONORING FLORIDA'S 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ACADEMY BOARD MEMBERS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to members of my 7th Congressional District of Florida United States Service Academy Board Members. These are wonderful Americans who have provided voluntary service to assist in the nomination and selection of young men and women who will attend our nation's military academies. Each of these individuals has faithfully worked to help our country choose the very best of our youth to train for leadership positions in our military branches. The United States Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps each owe these board members special thanks and recognition for their years of work and efforts.

They have not only interviewed hundreds of students applying to the academies, but also provided invaluable counseling and support in their important life and career choices.

On behalf of all the people of the 7th Congressional District I salute and honor LTC James T Marino (Ret.) of St. Johns, Mr. Derek Hankerson of St. Augustine, Dr. Dan Kelso of St. Augustine, Col. Douglass Wood (Ret) of Palm Coast, Mr. Dan Quiggle of Ponte Vedra Beach, Col. Frank Farmer, Jr. (Ret.) of Ormond Beach, Col. Charles Early, Jr. (Ret.) of DeLand, Mrs. Mary Ann Welsh of Ormond Beach, Mr. Dan Hughes USMC (Ret.) of Palm Coast, Capt. Bill Knehans, DC, USN (Ret.) of Ormond Beach, LTC Al Peterson (Ret.) of Welaka and Mr. Tony Papandrea of Palm Coast.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking the Military Service Academy Board Members of Florida's 7th Congressional District.

HONORING FORMER SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, George McGovern was a leader in the battle to end hunger—here in the United States and around the world. His recent passing should remind all of us of the need to continue his fight. Hunger is a political condition. We have the food and know-how to end it—what we're missing is the political will. As a tribute to Senator McGovern, let's all help create that political will.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a number of tributes to the great man.